

Gulf Islands National Seashore

Hunting

Gulf Islands National Seashore was established in 1971. The tremendous variety of habitats found on the seashore and in the National Seashore an important wintering area for many species of migratory birds. The Seashore is listed as a National Wildlife Refuge. Numerous recreational opportunities for Seashore visitors, among the most popular are camping, cast netting, fishing, picnicking, viewing the historic forts and walking on the beach.

Before your hunt

You must first obtain a hunting permit from the Seashore. The [permit](#) is issued free of charge by the Chief Ranger at the Seashore (youth under 16 and those over 65). To apply, submit the information in the permit online via [email](#), or in person at the Seashore, 1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, Florida, 32563 or (850) 934-2600. Permits will be issued Monday through Friday.

Before you apply for your permit, unless exempt, you must possess the following documents:

1. State of Florida hunting license
2. State of Florida Migratory Bird Permit
3. Signed federal ["duck stamp"](#) (*for hunters age 16 and older*)
4. State driving license
5. Confirmation number from your [Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program](#) (HIP) license

After your hunt

As a requirement of the Seashore waterfowl hunting permit, each hunter is required to file a ["Waterfowl Hunt and Harvest Report"](#) from each hunt including the date, unit hunted, number and species of waterfowl harvested. Please report hunts during the hunting season. Reports should be submitted individually for each member of a hunting party, but may be submitted or mailed on a group basis.

Gulf Islands National Seashore Hunting Regulations

Waterfowl hunting on Gulf Islands National Seashore is in accordance with all State and Federal Migratory Bird regulations. Hunters must read these regulations before going afield. Seashore regulations are more restrictive and are listed below.

Open Season: Hunting is allowed during the open Waterfowl and Coot season(s) established for Florida, including the regular season. Hunting and hunting during the Special September Duck Season are not allowed within the Seashore boundaries. Visit the Seashore website for the annual waterfowl and coot season brochure, typically available in October. Only waterfowl with an open season established for that species may be taken.

Hunting Times: Shooting hours are from 30 minutes before sunrise, to sunset.

Hunting Areas: Hunting for waterfowl is permitted in two areas of the Seashore, up to the mean high water tide line. The boundaries are delineated on the maps in this brochure/permit. Hunting Area boundaries depicted along the shore are the approximate boundaries. The Hunting Areas are open to both hunters and non-hunters during waterfowl hunting season. Note specific regulations for each area.

Perdido Key Hunting Area – Located in the waters of the Big Lagoon area of Perdido Key under the Seashore jurisdiction from the western terminus of the Johnson Beach Road beginning ½-mile east of the terminus of the Johnson Beach Road and visitor facilities to the eastern end of Perdido Key. GPS track files in [Garmin](#) and [Google Earth](#) formats.

Santa Rosa Hunting Area – Located in the waters of Santa Rosa Sound under the Seashore jurisdiction from the western terminus of the Johnson Beach Road to the eastern Seashore boundary near Navarre Beach (Map 2). A 150-yard no hunting buffer shall be maintained from the shore to Opal Beach. Here are GPS track files in [Garmin](#) and [Google Earth](#) formats.

Access: Hunting areas within the Seashore may be accessed by water only. Access to hunting areas from land is prohibited.

affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

No persons shall take migratory game birds from or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, if the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased.

Taking or attempting to take any game species in Florida with recorded game calls or sounds is prohibited (68A-12.01).

No persons shall take migratory game birds from or by means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird.

No persons shall take migratory game birds from or by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows that the area is or has been baited. Baiting means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or throwing of any substance that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take such birds.

Non-toxic shot is required for waterfowl hunting. Possession of shells loaded with shot other than steel, bismuth/tin alloy, or approved by USFWS, is prohibited. A list of approved shot types can be found at:
<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/nontoxic.htm>.

Non-Hunting Areas:

Hunting within the Seashore shall be allowed only at the Perdido Key and Santa Rosa Hunting Areas in Escambia County and 2.

A 150-yard no hunting buffer shall be maintained west and east of the picnic area at Opal Beach, Santa Rosa.

A ½-mile no hunting buffer shall be maintained east of the terminus of the Johnson Beach Road, Perdido Key.

The Seashore may execute protective (seasonal, temporary, or permanent) closure of areas to avoid impacts to protected habitats. Any closures will be implemented prior to the opening of waterfowl hunting season, no later than November 1st.

Hunting or carrying loaded firearms shall be prohibited within areas posted as closed to hunting, posted as safety zones, or other restricted areas.

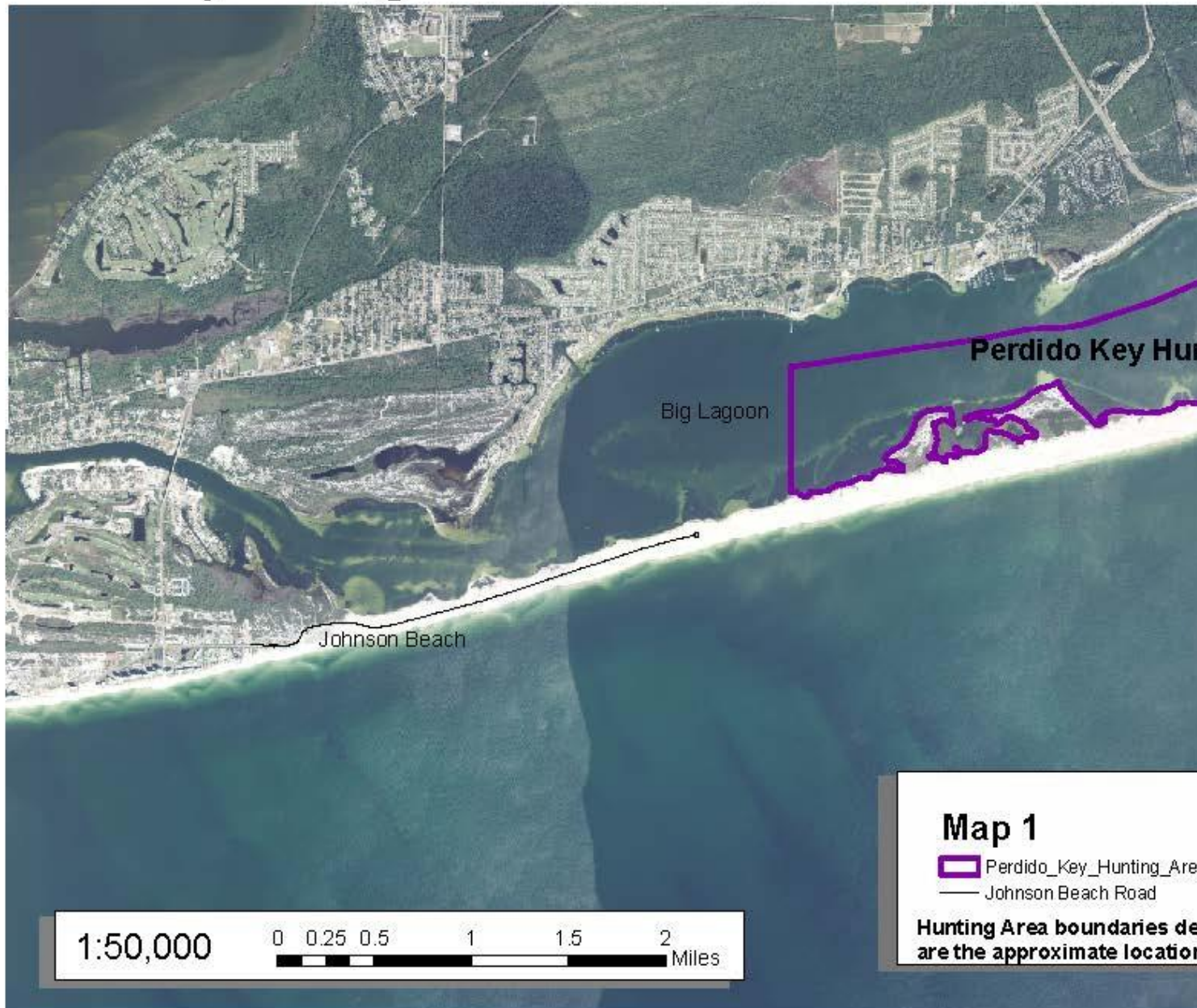
Boats used for hunting shall be allowed to travel within areas closed to hunting, but traveling with loaded guns shall be prohibited.

Repeat Violations: of Seashore regulations may result in the loss of hunting privileges within the Seashore.

Any person may be ejected from the area, including the revocation of their annual Seashore hunting permit, for disobedience to or failure to abide by the federal, state, or Seashore-specific hunting regulations, or any other conduct which endangers the public.

In addition to the above restrictions, all activities within the Seashore are subject to the Seashore Superintendent's Closures, designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent, National Seashore.

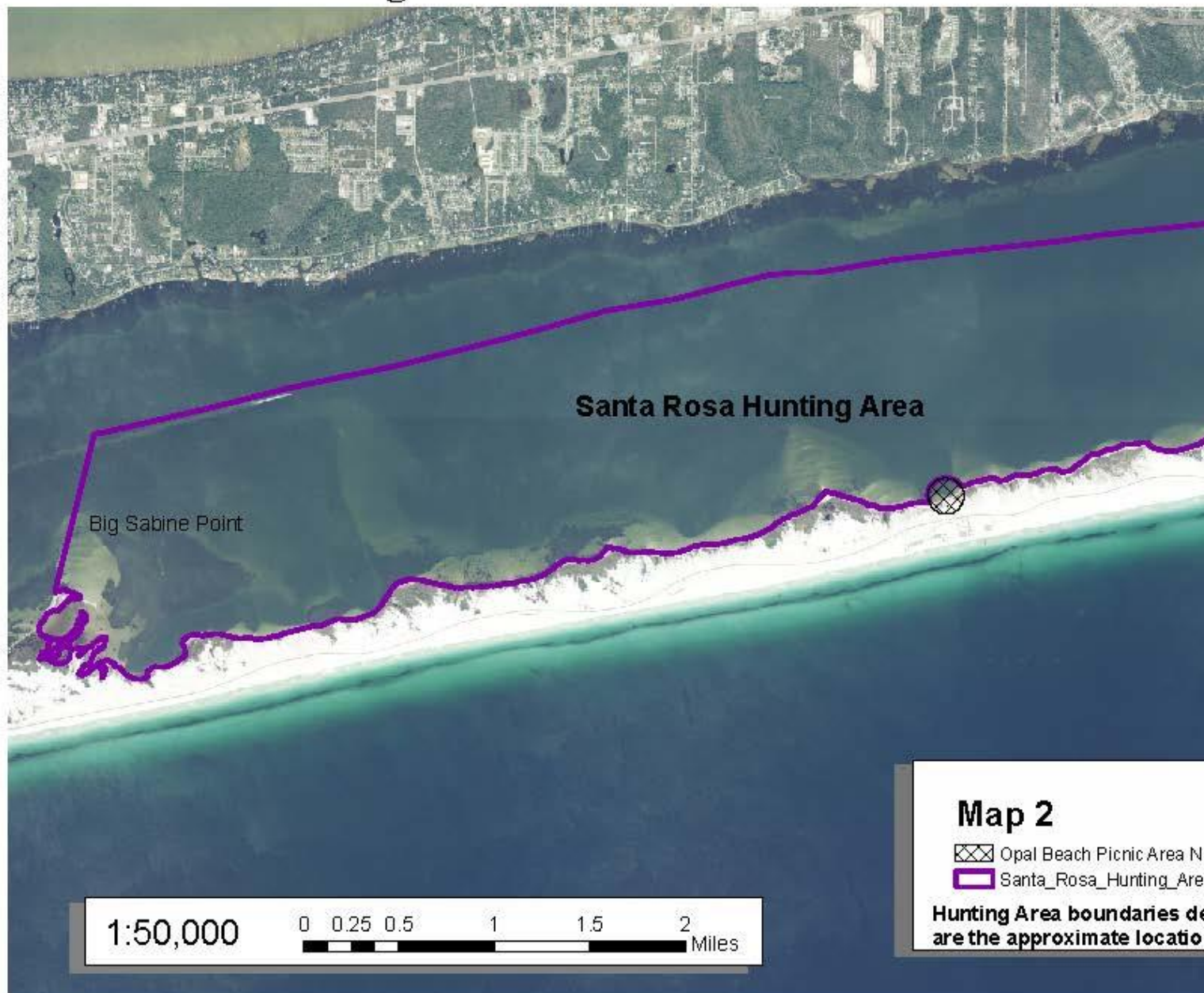
Perdido Key Hunting Area



Produced by Science & Resources Management Division - Jolene Williams

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Santa Rosa Hunting Area



Produced by Science & Resources Management Division - Jolene Williams

FILE: WHMP.mxd

Maps of Gulf Islands National Seashore's designated hunting areas.

For More Information

[2011/12 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons In Florida](#)

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

[Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp](#) ("Federal Duck Stamp Program")

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Link to Latest [Migratory Bird Hunting Rules and Notices](#)
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

